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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Coughlin recognized for contributions to environment

By Shelby Macri  
[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

AGAWAM – An Agawam resident, John W. “Jack” Coughlin Jr. has been recognized jointly by the school committee, Mayor William Sapelli, and the city council. He was additionally recognized by the Container Recycling Institute, all for his activism in recycling and trash cleanup.

At the March 9 Agawam School Committee meeting Sapelli addressed a proclamation that honored Coughlin’s dedication to the community by educating others and volunteering countless hours to cleaning and picking up litter in town. The proclamation declared that the School Committee, Sapelli, and the City Council had the distinct honor of proclaiming April 22, 2021 as Earth Day and will also be known as Jack Coughlin Appreciation Day in Agawam.

“He singlehandedly educated our community and worked diligently to help our environment by picking up our neighborhoods on a regular basis,” Sapelli said.

“There was a tragic accident where he was injured severely with a car when he was out on the road picking up trash. So, our

thoughts and prayers go out to a speedy recovery to Jack Coughlin.” The community came together and gave ideas, suggestions, and help to dedicate something to the 78-year-old Coughlin as he helped the community in numerous ways for years.

School Committee member Wendy Rua suggested dedicating a day to Coughlin on Earth Day and Sapelli agreed saying this day is in Coughlin’s wheelhouse. Additionally, it made sense as Coughlin is a main advocate for recycling and trash cleanup within the city. The proclamation mentioned that the dedicated Coughlin Appreciation Day this year will carry forward in subsequent years, so Earth Day is known as Jack Coughlin Earth Day in Agawam. It also encouraged residents, citizens, businesses, and institutions to use Earth Day to celebrate the planet and promote the well-being of the environment and the habitant within. Sapelli further thanked Coughlin for his commitment to the community after the proclamation was announced.

Coughlin was additionally recognized by CRI, who presented their Courageous Spirit Award

**COUGHLIN** | page 2



Jack Coughlin is being recognized locally and nationally for his commitment to cleaning up the environment in Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Spring gridiron



The Agawam High School football team returns to the field for the first time in over a year this Friday. Full story on page 8.

## Mayor advocating for mass vaccination site at Big E grounds

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM – With local sites gone for now, Agawam is joining with area towns to support placing a mass COVID-19 vaccination site at the Big E grounds in West Springfield.

Eastern State Exposition’s fairgrounds are just over the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge and would be very convenient to Agawam residents.

Town officials from Southwick and Westfield are also hoping the state will open a site there.

Mayor William Reichelt, who used to serve as a law clerk in Agawam, has been lobbying with the state government to have a COVID-19 vaccination site at the Big E, as has its owner.

However, as of now, the Eastfield Mall in Springfield is the only mass vaccination site in Western Massachusetts.

Some smaller vaccination clin-

ics have opened and a number of pharmacies are taking limited appointments. But limited supply has also come into play.

In late February, the Town of Agawam had announced a vaccination clinic would be coming for senior citizens, but that announcement was retracted soon after because Gov. Charlie Baker said vaccines were all being re-routed to the state’s mass vaccination sites.

**VACCINATION** | page 2

## School district continues to help students transition

By Shelby Macri  
[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

AGAWAM – The Director of Social Emotional Learning, Marlene DeJesus visited the School Committee meeting in person on March 9 to speak about the school district’s social emotional learning framework for students returning to school.

The framework for the back-to-school plan was particularly helpful for the students return in September, but DeJesus said the focused plan is still helping stu-

dents currently. Superintendent Shelia Hoffman introduced DeJesus to the committee and thanked her for her hard work during this academic year.

“We’re proud, privileged, and pleased to have this position in our district. We’re even prouder to have Mrs. DeJesus as our director,” Hoffman said. “She has really supported a lot of changes in ways we support our social and emotional learning in our district, especially at this very needy time.”

DeJesus explains that the re-opening framework plan in-

cluded four main areas of focus; including connection, safety, self-regulation, and empowerment. While these areas of focus are different, they all include ways to keep students engaged while in their learning space. The area of connection especially targets ways to keep students engaged in class, recognize when students aren’t in the learning frame of mind, and find ways to re-engage students in school work while they’re in a ‘learning brain’ environment.

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**Praise and Worship at St. John's**

**AGAWAM** — All are welcome and invited for a special night of Prayer, Adoration, Confession and Praise and Worship music. Please join us Friday evening, March 19, The Feast Day of St. Joseph, 7 to 9 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, Agawam. What a beautiful way to grow closer to Christ, through the intercession of St. Joseph.

**COVID-19 testing at HCC extended through June**

**HOLYOKE** — Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>



The COVID-19 test site at Holyoke Community College will continue to offer drive-thru testing until the end of June. SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Crafters needed for St. John's first-ever outdoor fair**

**AGAWAM** — St. John the Evangelist Church is excited to host its first-ever Outdoor Craft Fair, Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 833 Main Street, Agawam. Crafters are welcome to request an application by contacting Andreana Perkins, 413.786.8105, or [sje.information@gmail.com](mailto:sje.information@gmail.com). A rain date is set for May 8.

There is a \$35 non-refundable fee, and a request for one craft item to be donated to

the Raffle Tent (value of \$20).

Crafters will have access to a designated 10 x 10 outdoor space, which will include a six-foot table and chair. There are limited number of spaces with electricity that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Interested crafters can contact Andreana Perkins at 413.786.8105, or [sje.information@gmail.com](mailto:sje.information@gmail.com).

**COUGHLIN** ■ **from page 1**

to him for miles of litter cleanup and advocacy for the Bottle Bill Expansion. They also recognized Coughlin for his decades of environmental advocacy and a lifetime of community service. Coughlin was cleaning miniature liquor bottles known as nips, and other trash from the road when he got into his accident. Coughlin often picked up nips on the side of roads and discarded in other areas around the community, he advocated for the addition of nips deposit to the Massachusetts Container Deposit Law.

This deposit law enables consumers to return bottle and cans to a recycling location and receive payment in return, it's utilized within cities and towns but they don't accept nips. These small bottles are often discarded on the streets and tend to pile up in common areas. There is a Proposed Nips Deposit entitled Jack's Bill which outlines a bottle bill expansion of legislation to include proper disposal of the miniature

bottles. It is being referred to as Jack's Bill because it focuses on the nips he identified as a top cause of litter during his cleanups.

This legislature would add a five-cent deposit to nips to give incentive for people to recycle them rather than littering.

State Senator John Velis spoke about Coughlin's dedication to cleaning the community. "From traveling to the statehouse to testify during public hearings, to contacting legislators directly, he has been so dedicated in calling attention to this critical issue, and I am proud to co-sponsor this bill," Velis said. House Representative Nicholas Boldyga also spoke about Coughlin and his work within the community. Boldyga mentioned that he admired Coughlin for years. He also mentioned Coughlin as a community hero who went to clean the community every day, doing what no one else wanted to do.

**VACCINATION** ■ **from page 1**

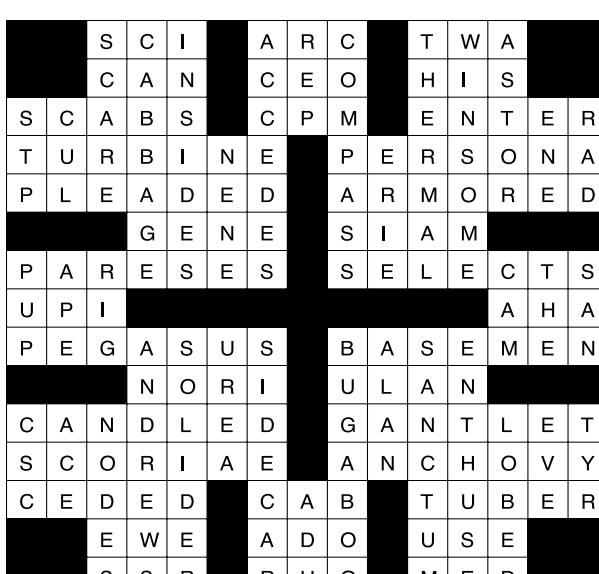
Following the address last Thursday night by President Joe Biden, the state government is hopeful more vaccine supply will be headed to Massachusetts, allowing the state to open up more vaccination sites.

Reichelt, along with Agawam Mayor William Sapelli continue to advocate for the Big E being used as a mass vaccination site, and are hopeful the site will be part of the next round of vaccination sites to open up, especially with so many limited locations in the western part of the state.

There were some vaccination clinics that took place in long-term care facilities

for the elderly, and as well as senior homes in West Springfield. But most of the clinics are in Eastern Massachusetts, especially Fenway Park and Gillette Stadium, two large stadiums.

The Big E was most recently the host of an event created in lieu of the St. Patrick's Day parade. The event was a drive-thru for residents who could view the Colleens and courts from the various communities, including Agawam and Holyoke. Several emergency services were represented at the event as well.

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Call 413-467-7193 for information regarding school choice applications

# Autism Resource Center available at the Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – Are you, or someone you know, looking for resources to help you support someone on the Autism Spectrum? Or are you on the Autism Spectrum and hoping to learn more about it? Check out the Autism Resource Center at the Agawam Public Library. These items can be checked out of the library using your library card.

The Autism Resource Center is located in the Children's Room of the Agawam Public Library. Here we have books for kids and adults about life on the Autism Spectrum. This resource center was generously funded by Smart Start Preschool.

The Autism Resource Center includes many books for a range of ages, and some DVD's that can assist on the path to understanding more about autism and ways to support loved ones on the spectrum.

Some new books that have been added to this collection are:

The Autism Playbook for Teens: Imagination-based Mindfulness Activities to Calm Yourself, Build Independence, and Connect with Others by Irene McHenry PhD and Carol Moog PhD.

This book will help teens on the spectrum reduce anxiety, manage emotions, be more aware in the present moment, and connect with others.

Think Social!: A Social Thinking Curriculum for School-age Students by Michelle Garcia Winner.

This book includes detailed lessons, worksheets and vocabulary for a social skills curriculum for children.

The Conversation Train: A Visual Approach to Conversation for Children on the Autism Spectrum by Joel Shaul.

This inventive color picture book uses the metaphor of a train to teach basic conventions of conversation to children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).

The Agawam Library is open for browsing by appointment on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. All you need to do is call 413-789-1550 to make an appointment.

If you can't make it into the library on one of those days you can call Monday-Saturday and ask someone to put the books aside so you can pick it up on one of our Grab-and-Go days which are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Agawam Public Library has a full resource center for supporting people with autism. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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## Valley Press Club scholarship applications being accepted

REGION – The Valley Press Club, based in Springfield, Mass., will award up to six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

The Republican Scholarship, funded by The Republican, is for students living within the newspaper's circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, is for students who are underrepresented, in the Springfield, Mass. area, planning careers in journalism.

The Al Jaffe Scholarship, funded by Mr. Jaffe, the Valley

Press Club's first scholarship recipient in 1964, who retired in 2015 as vice president of talent negotiation and production recruitment at ESPN, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism or sports journalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant's high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship applications are available at [www.ValleyPressClub.com](http://www.ValleyPressClub.com), high school guidance offices, or by emailing NTassinari@TheBigE.com. Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, VPC Scholarship Chair, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089 or electronically to NTassinari@TheBigE.com. The deadline for submissions is April 15. Over the course of five decades, The Valley Press Club has presented over \$130,000 in scholarships to eligible students.

The Valley Press Club consists of active and retired journalists and public relations professionals from corporate and nonprofit organizations.

gives students and staff a chance to heal," DeJesus said. "When you feel better you have more control in the choices you make or are given." The school started a virtual family resource center that is committed to students and their families for a community partnership.

The goal is to provide support and guidance to students and their families when they're in need of community resources. This center works to create connections to other agencies and organizations for their overall wellness. This allows for students to reach the help they need and it gives them a chance to grow and eventually feel empowered, this will start their healing process and help to continue the schedule and structure of the school systems new normal. The four focus areas are working well for the school district and it will continue to be adapted as the school year progresses and needs surface.

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### ◆ La Cucina di Hampden House

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CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;  
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### ◆ Route 20 Bar & Grille

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CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;  
Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;  
Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

### ◆ Donovan's Irish Pub

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# Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

## Does paying FICA tax now increase my benefit?

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: If a person retires at age 66 and continues to work full time, Social Security taxes are still taken out of his weekly paycheck. Will this taxation for Social Security contribute more to the person's Social Security benefit, even if already retired? Signed: Curious Retiree

Dear Curious Retiree: Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has been a "pay as you go" program, where contributions from those who are working are used to pay benefits to those who are collecting Social Security benefits. That remains true even if, after you start collecting Social Security, you work and pay payroll taxes into the system.

Those Social Security payroll taxes you are contributing now aren't deposited into a personal account for you, they're used to help pay benefits to all recipients. So, paying Social Security FICA payroll taxes after you start collecting benefits doesn't affect your benefit payment. However, what might affect your benefit amount is if your current earnings from working are more than any of those in the 35 years used to originally compute your Social Security benefit when you filed.

When you apply for Social Security benefits, Social Security adjusts every year in your lifetime earnings record for inflation to bring those earlier earnings up to today's dollar values. They then select the 35 highest-earning years over your entire lifetime, and from those 35 highest-earning years they develop your "Average Indexed Monthly Earnings" or AIME. Your AIME, in turn, is used to compute your Social Security benefit at your full retirement age, or FRA.

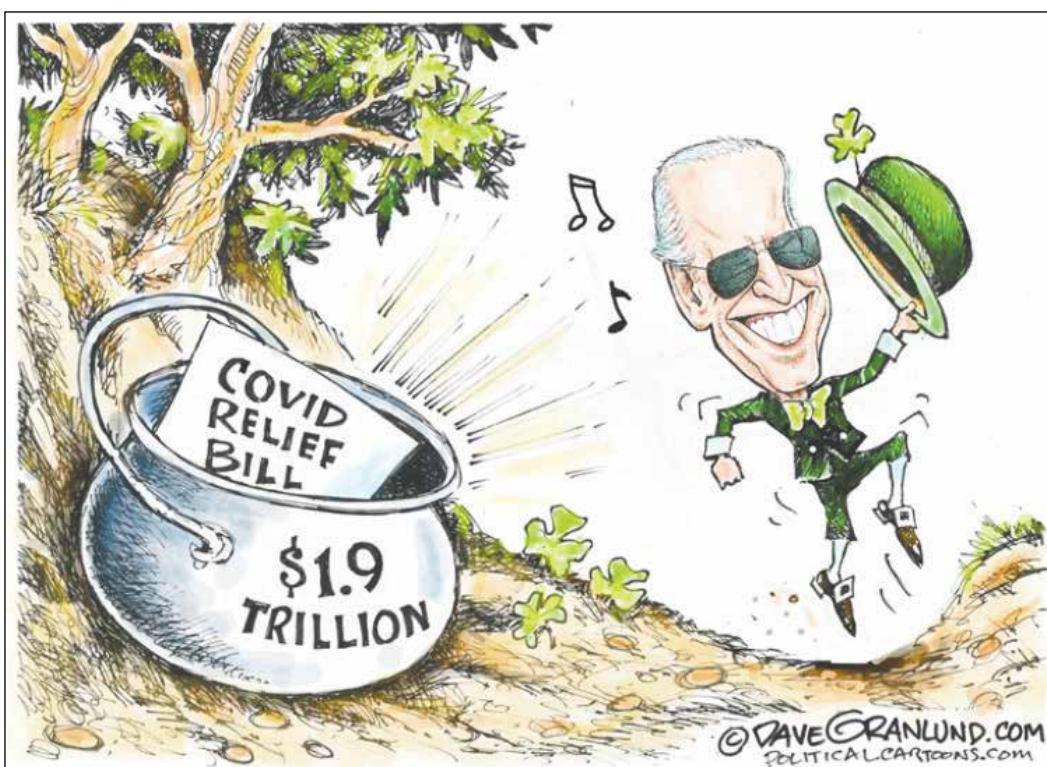
Social Security examines your earnings every year after your earnings for the previous year are reported to Social Security by the IRS. After your benefits have started, and if your current earnings are higher, Social Security will replace an earlier year's earnings with your more recent earnings and recompute your benefit, resulting in a small benefit increase. I use the term "small" because it would represent only 1/35th of the average lifetime earnings used to compute your benefit.

A key thing to remember is that each of your past year's earnings, up until you are 60, are adjusted for inflation before computing your benefit amount. So, for example, \$25,000 earned in 1990 is worth more than \$60,000 in today's dollars, and it is the inflation-adjusted amount that your current earnings would need to exceed increase in your benefit. I recently published an article on this topic which you may find helpful: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-does-paying-social-security-payroll-tax-increase-my-benefit/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-does-paying-social-security-payroll-tax-increase-my-benefit/).

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To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



## The Garden Lady tackles heirloom tomatoes

**B**ill, a Maryland "transplant" who continues to read the Ware River News from his new home, had this question for the Garden Lady: "My son and family think I'm Mr. Green-jeans. For Christmas they gave me a pack of "exotic" tomato seeds. Unfortunately, there are some limitations to a 15-foot by 25-foot garden plot. I would like to start some nonetheless. Here is the list: Vintage Wine, Red Zebra, Chocolate Stripes and Black from Tula. All are from a seed company by the name of Urban Gardener in Indiana. Should I bother with these?"

Wow! You posed a wonderful question, Bill, and I am sure that the title of Mr. Green-jeans must have been earned somewhere down the line to warrant such a unique gift. I assumed that with names as poetic as these, you had been given a collection of heirloom tomato seeds. I was fascinated to learn, however, that while all of these varieties are open pollinated, not all are heirloom. What is the difference?

When I consider what the definition of an heirloom is, images of grandma's china or brooch come to mind, or in my personal case, babcia's water pitcher. To accurately put it into words, an heirloom is something that has been carefully passed down through the generations of a family. The same holds for heirloom plants. They aren't here by chance, typically. Someone took the time to care for them and

save the seeds of their best fruits or flowers so that they could be preserved and shared with others. To be able to save your own seed true to type, the plants need to be open pollinated, which heirlooms are. Here, pollination occurs naturally by bees, insects, animals, careful humans or the wind and the rain. Hybrids are a whole different story, whereby two plants were cross pollinated hoping to pass on specific genetic traits. The result, the third plant, is not stable. If its seeds are saved it is likely you will end up with a fruit or flower that resembles one of the parent plants.

Saving the seeds of open pollinated tomatoes is the perfect first attempt for novice seed savers. They are self-pollinating and will produce offspring true to the parent plant without having to isolate them from other tomato varieties. Other plants can be tricky, say corn, for example, which needs to be kept separate from other corn by miles to produce seed that is true to type. My first experience with heirloom tomatoes was in my early years at Old Sturbridge Village, where we grew tiny Yellow Pear, for awhile the pinkish Brandywine, and now the uniquely lobed Large Red. I remember my co-worker analyzing which Large Red tomato matched the descriptions from the mid-19th century and choosing to save the seeds of the most authentic looking fruit, thereby passing on accurate genetic traits to future crops. Neat stuff!

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

It was fun to read that the scarlet color of most modern day tomatoes was actually a gene mutation that breeders discovered and bred into fruits so that they would ripen evenly. Many champions of the heirloom tomato movement argue that this was at the expense of flavor. So Bill, you have a unique opportunity to experience Vintage Wine, a whopper of a tomato, with some of the pink, striped golden fruits weighing over a pound.

Also the oh so sweet Russian heirloom Black from Tula, another large fruit that is deep purple with green shoulders sometimes described as "the ugliest, most delicious tomato ever grown." The more recent chance discovery, Red Zebra, is a beautiful cherry-red with yellow-orange stripes and a sweet, yet tart tomato flavor. How about Chocolate Stripe, a three to four-inch, exceptionally yummy mahogany colored tomato with olive striping that produces over a long period, taking third place winner for taste at the annual TomatoFest.

So yes, bother with these, enjoy complexities of flavor not found in the average red tomato and save the seed for those you like. I'd love to hear all about it!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

## Clothing collection goes to end of the month

AGAWAM — Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1061 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills has been collecting donations of white socks, hats, scarfs, gloves and gently used and washed since January. We have so far made five truck loads to the South Congregational Church in Springfield where the donations are sorted and made available to those in need. Thanks to your enormous generosity we have been able to fill their needs. The donations for the remainder of the month will be going to the Springfield Rescue Mission. The drive will continue through the end of March 2021. If you have any questions, please call our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 786.8200 ext. 3.

## Apply for garden club scholarship

AGAWAM — Applications are now available for the Agawam Garden Club scholarship. To qualify for the scholarship students must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School or a college student who graduated from Agawam High School. Applicants must be majoring in or planning on majoring in one of the following: botany, environmental engineering, environmental science, earth systems, forest management, natural resources, plant soil and insect science, sustainable agriculture, sustainable horticulture or food and farming, turf grass science and management, landscape design and management technology, clean energy, technology studies: wastewater or other environmental related studies. Applications are available through Agawam High School or can be found on our website at [agawamgardenclub.com](http://agawamgardenclub.com).



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## Women to Watch holding first luncheon of 2021



Guest Speaker, Yajayra Santana.

AGAWAM – The Western Mass Chapter of “Women to Watch USA” will be holding their first live, in-person luncheon for the new year on Thursday March 25.

Guests are asked to wear masks and all covid protocols will be in place.

The luncheon will be held at the 141 Main St Restaurant in Agawam (formerly the Main St. Deli.)

The luncheon is open to members and the public and will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the cost is \$25 per person.

Guest Speaker will be Yajayra Santana, a Western Mass native, a community leader and social worker. Ms. Santana will be speaking on “Pivoting during Covid - 19 and amid the crisis how to still be a success in your job.” She will also have a Q&A session.

There will be raffle gifts with donations from area business owners and members with proceeds going to the Women to Watch Western Mass Scholarship fund.

The scholarship fund is for continuing education women going back into the workforce but need more education to do so.

The public is also invited to sponsor one or more of the luncheons and/or the organizations’ other events. For more information on sponsor packages they can contact Carla Banas, Community Connections Chairman at cbanas0220@gmail.com.

## Lions make donation to APL

The Agawam Lions Foundation, Inc. donated new diabetes text resources to the Children’s Library at the Agawam Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 27. Pictured are (left) Children’s Librarian, Pamela Weingart and (right) Agawam Lions President, Deb Andrews.

This donation is part of the Agawam Lions’ ongoing focus on diabetes education, awareness, and support to our Agawam community. The diabetes text resources include materials for young children, teens, and parent/caregivers and cover both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

A diabetes diagnosis can be overwhelming and in some cases, life changing for children, teens, and families. It is our hope that by donating these materials, we can help those in our community that are affected by diabetes find relevant and current information in a format that is relatable and helpful.

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**FOR CHILDREN**  
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Children in Need



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**Sat., March 13, 10 a.m.**

**Wed., March 24, 7 p.m.**

**Sat., March 27, 10 a.m.**

**Sat., April 3, 10 a.m.**

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The King David Jazz Trio will bring an evening of old time and Gypsy jazz to the Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series on Friday, April 2 with a performance to be broadcast on the Towns of Agawam’s and Southwick’s public access channels and streamed at 7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Applause Series presents program of old time and gypsy jazz

AGAWAM – The virtual presentation of the Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series’ seventeenth season continues on Friday, April 2 when The King David Jazz Trio performs a mix of old time and Gypsy jazz in the style of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli, with Klezmer and other ethnic flavors, including Irish, Italian, Spanish, and American Standards. Recorded at the Darcy B. Davis Jr. Bandshell at Agawam’s School Street Park in September, the performance will be presented on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch” button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick’s TV15 at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch Channel 15” button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email rkadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

The King David Jazz Trio consists of Dave Giardina on guitar and vocals, Chris Payne on violin, and Kris Jensen on saxophone. Giardina studied music at the Longy School, and in classes with John Williams, Manuel Barrueco, Ben Verdery, Paco Peña, Oscar Ghiglia, and Sal Salvador. He has performed extensively throughout the Northeast and has been featured with the Hartford Symphony and Holyoke Symphony. As a recording session musician and performer, Payne has worked with artists such as John Martin, Tim Garland, and John Paul Jones, performing at venues such as The Barbican, and Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club. He has played virtually every genre of music, incorporating these into his own unique style. Jensen is a sax and flute player

of renown from Binghamton, New York, and a graduate of the Hartt School under Jackie McLean. He has toured with Dicky Betts of the Allman Brothers and graced the biggest stages of the northeast with major jazz orchestras.

Production sponsors for the King David Jazz Trio are the Agawam Special Police and Chris & Sue Catjakis. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, OMG, Inc., and the Southwick Cultural Council for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly “socially distanced” donation to support efforts to “Give Back to the Community” by visiting the ACC web site [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org) and clicking on the green “Donate” button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during this time of social distancing, please visit their web site, [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org). The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

## Lions Club offering scholarship

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club and Attorney David Ladizki are proud to announce the establishment of two memorial scholarships administered by the Agawam Lions Club Scholarship Committee. These scholarships for graduating Agawam High School seniors will honor local residents and Lions club members David and Beverly Malone Ladizki and Albert and Francis Malone.

The total amount of each scholarship is \$1,000.00 all of which will be funded by Attorney Ladizki’s generous donation to our community. Applications are available thru the High School Guidance Office.

## Openings now available for the CPA Committee

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there are two openings effective April 30 for the Agawam Community Preservation Act Committee. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the Agawam City Council office as soon as possible at (413) 726-9716 or email at [bbard@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bbard@agawam.ma.us)

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# Schools & Youth

# Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

## Reminders:

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

## Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

Student registration is now open for the NEACAC Spring College Fairs, which will be held on the following dates and times: Sunday, March 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, April 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. To date, there are over 170 colleges that are registered to participate in the program. Registration for students and school counselors is required, but free of charge. Please visit: neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual\_Spring to register.

The National Association of College Admission Counseling will be hosting Focus Fairs designed especially for students with special interests or residing in specific regions: STEM (March 7), Performing & Visual Arts (March 16), Western US (April 10), and Southeastern US (April 20). Students may register at virtualcollegefairs.org

Whether you've already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, March 7. Please visit cb.org/bigfuturedays to register.

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits

may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

## Scholarship Information:

The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class and have been on an IEP or 504 Plan for two years. Please visit horacesmithfund.org for an application. The application deadline is March 15.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. Please see horacesmithfund.org for details. The application deadline is March 15.

The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) - CT Chapter is pleased to offer multiple scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical Engineering. The students must be enrolled full-time for the complete year. The application is available at pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/ and is due no later than March 17.

Seniors who attended the James Clark School (two-year minimum) are encouraged to apply for the James Clark PTO Scholarship. Applications are available in Naviance

and are due no later than March 29.

The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts is offering a scholarship of \$1000 to qualified seniors who plan to further their education by attending a two or four-year college program. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by March 30.

The Agawam Municipal Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors or any persons pursuing their education beyond secondary school. The committee shall take into consideration each recipient's financial need, character, scholastic record, and involvement in school and community. The applications deadline is March 31.

Western Massachusetts seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing or graphics arts and will be attending in September 2021 are encouraged to apply for the scholarship offered by The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts. Applications are available at adclubwsm.org and must be postmarked on or before March 31. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans. More information is available at adclubwsm.org

The Pascal A. Deliso Scholarship is offered to students with distinguished academic ability, regular involvement in community service, commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, one parent of Italian descent, and have an acceptance to an accredited two- or four-year college or university. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted by April 1.

Applications for the Faolin Peirce Scholarship are now available in Naviance. Applicants must be an AHS graduate and must have attended an elementary school in Agawam. The candidate must also demonstrate financial need and academic ability. The application deadline is April 1.

The Agawam Rotary Club awards the Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial Scholarship scholarships to seniors from Agawam and West Springfield. The Selection Committee will choose students who best exemplify Rotary's principal motto, "Service Above Self", and who show leadership abilities and a desire to make a contribution to their home, school, community and country. The applicant must be a high school senior residing in Agawam or West Springfield and be attending or scheduled to attend an accredited academic or technical college in the month of September following graduation from high school. Applications must be forwarded no later than April 1. Please see Naviance for an application.

The Andrew Gallano Scholarship for the Arts will be awarded to an Agawam resident going to college to pursue a degree in the cultural arts, including (but not limited to)

painting, drama, languages, music, dance, journalism, poetry, architecture, and graphics. Applications are posted in Naviance and are due by April 1.

The Charles H. Heyl Vocational/Technical Scholarship/Grant is designed to financially assist an individual in obtaining an education related to a vocational/technical career or to grant an individual the amount of the scholarship for the purpose of purchasing tools or equipment to become established in his/her trade. The applicant need not be a high school senior. The applicant must be a resident of Agawam. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted no later than April 1.

The Agawam Soccer Association Sullivan Family Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching and/or refereeing. Applicants must have had a parent or close relative who participated in Agawam Soccer as a coach, assistant coach, board member, or tournament volunteer. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1.

The Agawam Soccer Association Rich Parolo Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer for at least four years, AHS soccer for at least two years, and participated in extra-curricular soccer-related activities such as coaching, assistant coaching, or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1.

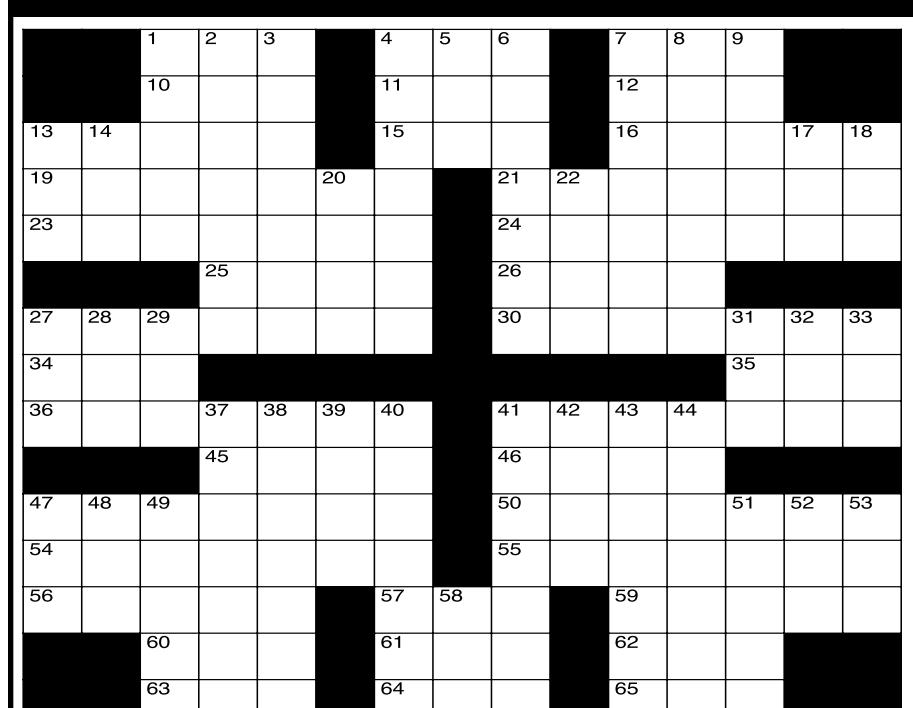
The Agawam Soccer Association Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching and/or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1.

The Agawam Soccer Association Christopher Knight Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in the ASA soccer program. Applications (due by April 1) are available in Naviance.

The Agawam Garden Club is offering a scholarship to a graduate or graduating senior of Agawam High School. Students must have a major from the following list: Botany, Environmental Engineering, Environment Science, Earth Systems, Forest Management, Natural Resources, Plant Soil & Insect Science, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Horticulture or Food & Farming, Turf Grass Science & Management, Landscape Design & Management Technology, Clean Energy, Technology Studies: Waste Water, or other environmental related studies. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by April 1.

JERICHO, the Bureau for Exceptional Children & Adults in Holyoke, is pleased to

announce the availability of the Father Robert F. Wagner Memorial Scholarship. Two \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded annually to students from Western Massachusetts who are graduating from high school or are enrolled at an accredited college or university. To be eligible, a student must be a resident of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, or Berkshire County, a graduating high school senior or a returning student attending an accredited college or university, and demonstrate either an intention to pursue a degree and a career dedicated to serving persons with disabilities, or be a person with a disability seeking to further his or her education. Applications are in Naviance and are due no later than April 1.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. fi: popular genre
4. Curved shape
7. Defunct airline
10. Beverage receptacle
11. Corporate bigwig
12. Belong to he
13. They cover cuts
15. Cost per mille
16. Walk into
19. Power-producing machine
21. Part of one's character perceived by others
23. Emotionally appealed to
24. Protected
25. Wrestling icon Okerlund
26. Thailand's former name
27. Muscle weaknesses
30. Chooses

### CLUES DOWN

34. American film studio
35. Expression of satisfaction
36. Mythical winged horse
41. Ballplayers
45. Edible seaweed
46. Chinese politician
47. Tested for fertility
50. Glove worn with medieval armor
54. Basaltic lavas
55. Small shoaling fish
56. Surrendered
57. Taxi
59. Potato part
60. Female sheep
61. Trouble or difficulty
62. Put into service
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
65. Type of student

1. Frighten
2. Partner to corned beef
3. Parts
4. Agrees to a demand
5. Elected official
6. Navigator's tool
7. Relating to heat
8. Attractive
9. Wealthy US merchant
13. Engine additive
14. A passage with access only at one end
17. Midway between northeast and east
18. Cool!
20. Brazilian NBAer
22. NW Pennsylvania city
27. Young dog
28. Mimic
29. Large truck
31. The NFL's Newton
32. One and only
33. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
37. Julie \_\_\_, actress
38. More nourishing
39. Compound
40. A small carrier attached to the side
41. Object of fear or alarm
42. \_\_ Ladd, actor
43. Sacred place
44. A way to express enjoyment
47. Trigonometric function
48. A team's best pitcher
49. Intersecting points
51. Roundish shaped
52. Adam's partner
53. God of battle (Scandinavian)
58. Human hormone

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# Obituaries

## Mary Ann (Veronesi) Anderson 1922 – 2021

Mary Ann (Veronesi) Anderson, 98, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on March 10, 2021. Mary was born in Avon, CT on June 26, 1922 to the late Giacomo and Palmira (Simonelli) Veronesi. A second-generation Italian, Mary and her three brothers grew up in the greater Springfield area. Mary worked in a bank before marrying her sweetheart John Anderson. Together they had three sons John, Jimmy, and Mark. When their oldest son was a year old, they moved from Springfield to Agawam and Mary stayed at home to raise her boys. After her children were grown, she chose to go back to work as the Assistant to the Treasurer of Hampden County. She remained an Agawam resident for over 50 years until moving in 2013 to be with her oldest son and his wife in Franklin, TN.



Mary lived life with a passion for family and friends. She dedicated herself to her family, was always present for them and raised her sons with love, good food and her ever present "polenta stick". She was health conscious ahead of her time, she and her husband planted a garden every year and she kept her boys on vitamins to help assure they stayed healthy. She loved living in Agawam because she always felt it was a great place to raise her boys and she was able to be close to her parents and her brother Albert and his family, who all lived on the same street. Mary was always friendly and a real people person who made many life-long friends. Over the years both friends and relatives knew that they could drop by Mary's house anytime and pull up a chair for coffee and a visit.

Mary will be deeply missed by her son John and his wife Dianne of Franklin, TN, her five grandchildren Trevor Anderson, Elijah Williams, Ethan Williams, Alissa Fasig and husband Ben, and Courtney Whitener and husband Alan, her three great-grandchildren Aiden Fasig, Roman Fasig and Emory Smith, numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews and many more extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, Mary was predeceased by her husband John, her two sons Jimmy and Mark Anderson, and her brothers Julio, Aldo, and Albert Veronesi.

Mary's family would like to thank her beloved caregiver Tonya Johnson, who came into their home each weekday and cared for and doted on Mary as if she were part of the Anderson family. Further the family's thanks and appreciation go to Alive Hospice and their staff for the caring support that they gave Mary in her final months.

Family and friends are invited for calling hours on Friday March 19, 2021 from 4 to 7 p.m. in Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home, 985 Main St., Agawam MA. The funeral will be held on Saturday, March 20, starting in the funeral home at 10 a.m. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church, Agawam. Burial will be in the Agawam Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Mary's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

To leave an online condolence, visit [www.forastiere.com](http://www.forastiere.com).

## Virginia G. Kibbe

*This obituary was published with an incorrect photo last week. We regret the error.*

Virginia "Ginny" Kibbe, 92, of Agawam and formerly of Southwick, passed away surrounded by the love of her devoted family on Saturday, February 27th. She was born in Southwick on April 22, 1928 to the late Angelo and Elizabeth Garcia. She was employed for many years as a bookkeeper for Westfield Bank in their main office. Ginny was an avid flower gardener and could always be found walking her neighborhood- stopping to chat with her neighbors along the way. She was a devoted supporter of Agawam High School sports and kept in contact with many former student athletes, a tradition she continued from her late husband.



She loved her sweets as well as the occasional Bloody Mary, prepared just the way she liked it. Ginny also never missed an episode of her favorite show, "Chicago PD" and enjoyed reading, especially John Grisham novels. She enjoyed going to Cape Cod with her daughter and son-in-law and sitting in her favorite Adirondack chair overlooking the water. One of the most important things Ginny enjoyed was the role of Grandma to her beloved grandson Bryce. Ginny was predeceased by her parents, her loving husband Clifford Sr. and her brother Ray. She will be forever missed by her son Clifford Jr. and his wife Carol and their son Bryce, with whom she made her home and her daughter Bonnie Willey and her husband Gene of Southwick. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Ginny are being held privately as per her wishes. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Virginia's memory to the Shriners Hospital for Children: Processing Center, P.O. Box 863765, Orlando, FL 32886

## Leroy A. Murdock 1924 – 2021

WINDSOR LOCKS – Leroy (Roy) A. Murdock, 96, passed away on March 8, 2021 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Buffalo, NY on September 30, 1924 to the late Ralph G. and Eleanor (Annis) Murdock, he was a graduate of Bay-side High. He then attended and graduated from the University of Hartford.

After many years of employment as an Engineer, Leroy retired from Hamilton Standard. His very bright engineering mind made it easy for him to be able to fix or repair just about anything. Roy found great pleasure in helping the neighborhood with their projects!

An avid skier, Roy spent many winters with his children, and their friends burning up the slopes of Magic Mountain in Vermont. He and his son, Paul continued skiing well into Roy's eighties and enjoyed every minute of it!

A true Scotsman, Roy played the bagpipes with the Stewart Highlanders for thirty years. He loved music and to dance, which he did well into his nineties, never at a loss for a partner willing to hit the dance floor.

A perfect meal to Roy was a good pizza and an ice cold beer, which he and Paul shared together many times after skiing, fishing or golfing or some other fun activity! Paul, the loving son that he was managed to get his Dad one last pizza and beer. While Roy couldn't eat the pizza he had no problem finishing the beer and very weakly repeated to Paul; "You have no idea how good this tastes". What a beautiful ending to a long life and a wonderful memory.

We want to thank the staff at Fresh River and Touchpoints at Chestnut Hill for the wonderful care and kindness they gave to Roy. We give a special thank you to Natalie for going above and beyond to bring healing, hope, joy and kindness to Roy. Natalie and Dave will not be forgotten.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by the mother of his children, Dorothy (Dolan) Murdock and his wife Carol M. (Foley) (Doyle) who passed away in 2009, his daughter Ann Marie Murdock who passed away in 2006, and his sisters Mary and Delora.

He is survived by his son Paul Murdock (his buddy) and his wife, Deb of Windsor Locks, CT; his loving daughter Carol M. Shé (his Maggie) of Portland, OR; and his sister Sally of North Carolina as well as many nieces and nephews.

A private burial will be held for Leroy in the Agawam Center Cemetery, Main Street, Agawam. Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Keep a song in your heart, step lightly Roy and rest in peace.

For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit [www.forastiere.com](http://www.forastiere.com)

## Turley Publications wants to hear from you

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At Turley Publications, we strive to reach all our readers. In that effort, we have created an online survey to learn about how our readers get their news. Please complete this survey to educate us on how we can best reach you, the reader. The 10-question survey takes about two minutes to complete online. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBSJ69F>. Thank you.

## Death Notices

### Blackak, Chad David

Died: March 1, 2021  
Funeral Ceremony is Private

### Hallaman (Crean), Catherine J.

Died: March 5, 2021  
Funeral Services via livestream

### Kibbe, Virginia

Died: February 27, 2021  
Funeral Services are Private

### Malacria, Maria

Died: March 5, 2021  
Services March 11, 8:45 a.m.  
Forastiere Smith Family Funeral Home

### Stokowski, Sr., John E.

Died: March 4, 2021

## Maria Pietroniro Malacria

### 1934-2021

*This obituary was published with an incorrect photo last week. We regret the error.*

Maria Pietroniro Malacria 86, beloved wife of the late Giovanni E. Pietroniro and the late Joe Malacria, passed away on March 5, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. Maria was born in Guglionesi, Province of Campobasso, Italy to the late Antonio and Rose (Matone) Strippa. After emigrating to the United States, Maria later guided and supported several other family members to join her and become U.S. citizens. Maria was a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Springfield. She retired as a housekeeper from the former Mediplex Nursing Home, East Longmeadow. Previously, she was employed as a cook by the Springfield School System. Being a gifted cook, she best expressed her love by the gatherings of family and friends around her kitchen table. Maria was predeceased by her son, Luigi J. Pietroniro; her siblings, Benito, Tomasso, Antonio, Giuseppina Strippa, and Irene Berardi; a grandson, Michael Pietroniro and a great grandson, Andrew Franco. Maria is survived by her two sons, John Pietroniro and his wife Maria, Vincent Pietroniro and his wife Carol, a daughter, Josephine DeSousa and her husband Augusto; a brother, Amedeo Strippa; a daughter in law, Margaret Pietroniro; a step daughter, Nella and her husband Victor Anoia; 11 grandchildren, Joanna and her husband Jose Franco, Tony DeSousa and his wife Laura, Mary DeSousa, Lina Pietroniro and her fiancé Joe Caporiccio, Christina Pietroniro, John C Pietroniro and his fiancé Sally Borgatti, Angelina Pietroniro, Nicolas Pietroniro, Kimberly Ruff and her partner Wayne Barker, Jennifer and her husband Nick Cioffi, James Pietroniro and his wife Ashlee; 11 great grandchildren; extended family both in the United States, Italy and Canada. The family wishes to extend a very special thank you to Maria's caregiver Brenda Rodriguez, whose love and kindness will never be forgotten. The family were to receive friends from on Wednesday, March 10, in the Forastiere Smith Family Funeral Home, 220 North Main St., East Longmeadow. Services will begin at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, March 11 from the funeral home. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 123 Williams St., Springfield. Burial to follow in St. Michael's Cemetery, 1601 State Street, Springfield. Masks/social distancing to be observed at all times. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Baystate Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice (Baystate Health Foundation: [baystatehealth.org/giving](http://baystatehealth.org/giving))

[www.forastierefuneralhome.com](http://www.forastierefuneralhome.com)

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# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL

### Brownies ready to take spring gridiron

AGAWAM – Western Massachusetts football is back, in a modified form. The Fall 2 season begins this weekend with Agawam High School participating in the six-week schedule

that will include a number of familiar opponents from the AA Conference like Longmeadow and Westfield, and the annual matchup with West Springfield that normally takes place

on Thanksgiving morning. The season begins Friday, March 19 at home at 4:30 p.m. with Agawam hosting Longmeadow.



The Brownies last game was Thanksgiving 2019 against West Springfield. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



It won't be on a holiday, but West Springfield is included in Agawam's short schedule this year.



Agawam High School will participate in the six-week Fall 2 schedule beginning Friday.

## SPRING TOURNAMENT

### Sectional tournament returns in spring season

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After a year without any type of high school tournaments due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place, a spring tournament is scheduled to take place in 2021.

As of now, it is believed that the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will prepare for the traditional three-season format, and that traditional format will include a change to a statewide tournament and the elimination of the sectional tournament.

The 2020-2021 school was set to be the last year for the sectional tournaments after a vote last year to change

the format of the tournament. Now the spring will feature sectional tournaments only following a recent vote by the MIAA.

There was an emphasis to try to bring back a tournament for the spring season after players missed out on an entire season last year and the MIAA did not want that to happen two years in a row.

The entire spring season was delayed multiple times before Gov. Charlie Baker closed down schools in late April for the remainder of the school year. The closure effectively cancelled the sport season as it was deemed not safe to play.

The MIAA thus far has gone with a four-season format, including a bub-

ble or "wedge" season to fit sports in that were not played in the first two seasons. Known as Fall 2, a variety of sports are being played right now, though football is the primary sport being played over the next several weeks. But Belchertown and Monson are also playing basketball. South Hadley and Southwick are among teams playing girls volleyball. Indoor track is also being played. However, there will be no tournaments played during the Fall 2 season, which is set to conclude at the end of April.

The spring season, which usually begins in mid-March and ends in mid-June, will go from the beginning of May with a cut-off of July 3 to finish

VERIZON | page 6



The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is set to return this season. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## BASEBALL

### Quabbin Valley Baseball set to return in 2021

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Last year, COVID-19 concerns caused the cancellation of several adult recreational baseball leagues.

With increasing vaccinations and protocols in place, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, a league for players 28 and over, will return with a full season beginning at the end of April.

League President Eric Castonguay, who also serves as the athletic director at South Hadley High School, held a league-wide meeting on Sunday morning via Zoom to go over changes that will be in place to play the 2021 season and discuss the status of the six teams for the 2021 season.

The six-team league is a strictly Sunday, 10 a.m. league. All games are played at that time for 15 weeks beginning April 25 and ended in mid-August. There are Sundays off for the Memorial Day and Fourth of July holiday.

The league was going to attempt a shortened season last year when Massachusetts went through the initial stages of its re-opening plan, but a few teams dropped out prior to the beginning, effectively cancelling the entire season.

This year, all six teams are back and on board, but there is a need for some new blood into the league.

The league is in need of about 25 players to fill out the rosters for this year. There are just a few weeks remaining before the league's draft.

Managers and members of the league's board discussed the COVID-19 protocols and field arrangements for the 2021 season.

Due to the restrictions in place in Easthampton, teams will only have limited games at Daley Field at Nonotuck Park. Castonguay announced the remainder of games would be played at South Hadley High School and the Beachgrounds Park, which is also in South Hadley. Booster Field is not available for the league, Castonguay said. Three games are typically played each Sunday. Each team plays their five opponents three times each. Every team makes

BASEBALL | page 9



Sign-ups for the league are ongoing and the league is in need of new players for the 2021 season.

# Sports

## Details for Basketball 2020 Hall induction released

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today its newly established schedule of events surrounding the Enshrinement of the highly anticipated Class of 2020. Due to the global pandemic, the event was postponed from August 2020 to May 14-16, 2021. To allow for proper physical distancing and additional COVID-19 safety protocols, the Hall of Fame has elected to relocate Enshrinement for one year from Springfield, Mass. to an environmentally controlled venue at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn with all events being held in one single site.

"There has been great interest surrounding the Class of 2020 as potentially one of our most historic classes to date," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "We are grateful to our longtime marketing partner Mohegan Sun for providing a beautiful venue where we can properly honor these iconic figures in basketball while accounting for the health and safety of our attendees. Coinciding with the reveal of our multi-million-dollar museum renovations, we couldn't be more excited to celebrate the Class of 2020."

The event schedule for the Class of 2020 Enshrinement Weekend is as follows (all times eastern\*):

\*Event start times are subject to change

Friday, May 14

2 p.m. - Class of 2020 Press Conference

5 p.m. - Hall of Fame Awards Celebration and Gala

Saturday, May 15

5 p.m. - Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony

Sunday, May 16

1 p.m. - Hall of Fame Ribbon Cutting  
(\$24 million dollar renovation including Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams and Museum Galleries)

The Hall of Fame Awards Celebration and Gala will recognize Hall of Fame Award winners from 2020 including John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement recipient Tim Nugent, Curt Gowdy Media Award recipients Michael Wilbon, Mike Breen, Jim Gray and TNT's Inside the NBA, as well as Mannie Jackson Human Spirit Award recipients Wayne Embry, George Raveling and Bill Russell.

The highly anticipated Class of 2020 includes: 18-time NBA All-Star and five-time NBA champion Kobe Bryant, 15-time NBA All-Star and three-time NBA Finals MVP Tim Duncan, 15-time NBA All-Star and nine-time NBA All-Defensive First Team selection Kevin Garnett, four-time National Coach of the Year Eddie Sutton, two-time NBA Champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich, 10-time WNBA All-Star and four-time Olympic gold medalist Tamika Catchings, three-time NCAA National Championship Coach of Baylor Kim Mulkey, five-time Division II National Coach of the Year Barbara Stevens and longtime FIBA executive Patrick Baumann.

A limited number of VIP Ticket Packages are available at this time. Any remaining single event tickets will be available for purchase Monday, March 15. For further information, a listing of COVID-19 protocols surrounding this event and purchasing options, visit [www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement/Tickets](http://www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement/Tickets).

As the health and safety of the Hall of Famers, fans and staff is of the utmost importance, the Basketball Hall of Fame will continue to work with the Mohegan Tribal Health Department to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely in the coming months and provide updates as needed. For more information and the latest updates, visit [www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement](http://www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement) or follow @hoophall on Twitter and Instagram.

### SPRING ■ from page 8

the season.

In order to limit travel, the MIAA did not want to have the state tournament, and have decided sectional tournaments can take place. As of now, the tournament is set to take place at home fields of higher seeds, with no neutral sites being used. However, with the vaccination effort accelerating, restrictions could lift as the next two months progress, allowing high school sports a bit more freedom.

Spring sports to be played include baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, girls tennis, boys track, girls

track, and boys volleyball. Wrestling is also scheduled to take place this spring.

One other caveat to the spring modifications is that teams eliminated from postseason play, can play games against other non-qualifiers through the end of the spring season.

Spring teams are used to a rushed season due to the typical unpredictable end to the winter and conditions on fields. However, with the spring sports beginning in May, field conditions should be ideal to begin games as soon as teams are ready.

### BASEBALL ■ from page 8

the playoffs with a football-style format where the lower four seeds play in the first week of the playoffs and the winners meeting the top two seeds in the semifinals.

Castonguay explained while the gameplay itself will be largely the same, a number of "habits" will need to be changed in order for the league to safely be played.

First, like many sports, masks are required to be worn while involved in the game or on the benches. Benches will need to be spread out in order to allow for social distancing. Mask breaks can take place up the foul lines with proper distance from all players, Castonguay said.

Last summer, umpires who did high school and adult baseball in other leagues called balls and strikes from behind the pitcher's mound. Castonguay said umpires voted recently to have an umpire back behind the plate.

Other habits being curtailed for the start of the season are the acts of spitting, spitting pumpkin or sunflower seeds, and the removal of all garbage from playing fields.

"Fields are not providing garbage cans," said Castonguay. "So whatever we bring in, we have to take with us."

The league may issue trash bags to teams so trash can be bagged and taken away by the players after games.

The modifications will be in place for the start of the season, but could change as the season goes on depending on the pace of vaccinations and when the governor lifts various restrictions.

The cost to play in the league this season is \$192.51 and registration can be found at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). The league draft is set for April 11 at 10 a.m. at a location to be determined.

## Westfield State announces return to sports action

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University will begin play for spring sports later this month, the school announced last week in conjunction with the Council of Presidents of the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

"A spring season for our student athletes is very welcome news at Westfield State, where athletics are integral to our campus culture and student experience," said Interim President Roy H. Saigo, PhD. "Our Westfield State Owls—the 2020 Smith Cup recipients—will be a force as safe and competitive intercollegiate play resumes for our teams."

The Owls plan to hold intercollegiate competition in men's and women's track and field, women's lacrosse, baseball, softball and men's golf this spring.

"We are tremendously excited that our student-athletes will have the chance to return to the field of play," said Westfield State Athletics director Dick Lenfest.

The pandemic cut seasons short exactly one year ago today, when the NCAA announced it was cancelling championships competition for 2020 due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

"It's been a long year," said Lenfest, who has also been tasked with managing the school's coronavirus testing for the past nine months. "While all of our athletes have experienced disappointment as the pandemic has affected both the ability to conduct competitions and even practices, the announcement today is a win for Owls athletics. By getting back to the field of play this spring the athletes who had their seasons cut short a year ago will be the first

ones to get back on the field, providing a sense of equity as it appears that no athlete or team would miss more than one season of competition due to the pandemic."

"It's important for our student-athletes, coaches and staff to stay vigilant as we return to play," said Lenfest. "The university is providing COVID testing each week before the contests, which gives us the opportunity to play intercollegiate games, but both on and off the field, while traveling, and even in the residence halls and apartments, it is important to wear your mask, wash and sanitize your hands frequently, and maintain safe social distancing protocols."

Per the decision of the MASCAC Council of Presidents, no spectators will be permitted at spring 2021 sport contests. Westfield State athletics plans to live video stream all of its home contests via [WestfieldStateOwls.com](http://WestfieldStateOwls.com), and the MASCAC.TV app for Roku and Apple TV streaming, and live stats for the games are also provided.

The spring sport schedules have been altered in conjunction with the presidents' announcement. Updated schedules for the Owls' spring sports teams will be posted shortly on [WestfieldStateOwls.com](http://WestfieldStateOwls.com). If weather or pandemic conditions force changes as the seasons progress, the online schedules are the first place to be updated accordingly.

Westfield's traditional fall and winter sports teams will continue to have practice opportunities throughout the remainder of the spring semester, with plans to return to full completion in fall of 2021 pending public health conditions.



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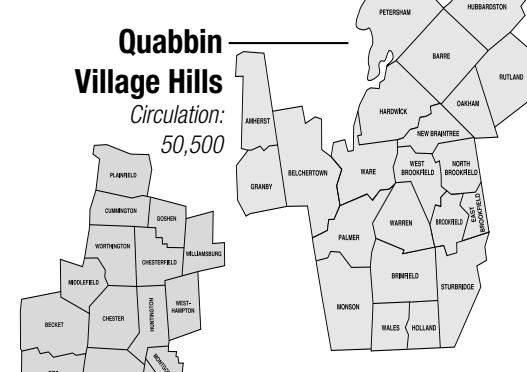
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**TOWN OF GRANBY, CHIEF OF POLICE** The Town of Granby seeks a community-oriented, qualified individual for the full-time position of Chief of Police. Appointed by the Selectboard and under the administrative oversight of the Town Administrator, the Chief of Police is the chief administrative officer of the Granby police department in a union/non-union working environment in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 97A serving as the final department authority in all matters of policy, operations and employee discipline as well as short and long-term planning, administration, staffing, rules and regulations within the Department and for the enforcement of all laws and bylaws within the town of Granby's legal jurisdiction as well as coordination with outside agencies/departments on law enforcement-related matters. Minimum education required is a bachelor's degree, with a master's degree preferred, in criminal justice, public administration or related field and a minimum of ten years progressively responsible experience in the law enforcement field with at least five years' experience at a command or supervisory level, or equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. Salary to be negotiated but expected to be approximately \$100,000 +/- . Excellent benefits package including paid vacation time, sick time, personal time and enrollment in the Hampshire County Retirement System. Submit cover letter, resume and relevant certification(s) postmarked no later than April 20, 2021 to Chief of Police Search, C/O Selectboard Office, 10-B W. State St., Granby, MA 01033 or electronically, time stamped no later than 12:00 p.m. April 20, 2021 to cmartin@granby-ma.gov.

**REAL ESTATE****LAND FOR SALE**

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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**Public Notices****FOR RENT**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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taken without further notice to you.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 10, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

03/18/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD13P0414EA  
Estate of: Celia J Balboni  
Also known as:

Celia Jennie Balboni

Date of Death: 01/03/2013

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Michael D

Balboni of Agawam MA

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account,

a determination of heirs at law

and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court.

You have a right to object to this proceeding.

To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance

and objection at this court before:

**10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/12/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date,

but a deadline by which you

must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 08, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**

Register of Probate

03/18/2021

Hills, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**AndrewRuhu**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/05/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 08, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**

Register of Probate

03/18/2021

**PUBLIC NOTICES | page 12**

**How to submit legal notices**

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

Turley Publications Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com) for more information.

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN**  
**FRIDAY AT NOON**

**HILLTOWNS**  
**MONDAY AT NOON**

**PUBLIC NOTICES** ■ from page 11

**LEGAL AD**  
**AGAWAM**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**COMMISSION**  
**LEGAL AD**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet remotely, due to the COVID -19 restrictions, through Zoom at 6:15 PM on **Thursday, March 25, 2021**. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the application of Bortolussi on a Request for Determination of Applicability for work on property located at 144 Hendom Drive.

By Order of  
 Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman  
**AGAWAM CONSERVATION**  
**COMMISSION**

**Join Zoom webinar:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83390908034?pwd=SzQ3d3Uvb1Vpb0V6M2piM0lmakl0dz09>

0V6M2piM0lmakl0dz09  
 Passcode: 399356  
**Webinar ID:** 833 9090  
 8034  
**Or Telephone:** (646) 558  
 8656  
 03/18/2021

**LEGAL AD**  
**AGAWAM**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**COMMISSION**  
**LEGAL AD**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet remotely, due to the COVID -19 restrictions, through Zoom at **6:00 PM on Thursday, March 25, 2021**. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the application of Cellico Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless on a Request for Determination of Applicability for work

on property located at 128 Southwick Street.  
 By Order of

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman  
**AGAWAM**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**COMMISSION**

**Join Zoom webinar:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83390908034?pwd=SzQ3d3Uvb1Vpb0V6M2piM0lmakl0dz09>

Passcode: 399356  
**Webinar ID:** 833 9090  
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 03/18/2021

**Commonwealth of**  
**Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
 50 State Street

**Springfield, MA 01103**

(413)748-8600  
**Docket No. HD21P3077EA**

**Estate of:**  
 Joseph L Bilodeau  
**Also Known As:**  
 Joseph Bilodeau  
**Date of Death:**  
**January 9, 2021**

**INFORMAL PROBATE****PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Patricia A Bilodeau** of Agawam, MA.

**Patricia A Bilodeau** of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Mass-

achusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/18/2021

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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